Water Supply in Palakaad District of Kerala

*140. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1000 families including 300 tribals of Plachimada in Palakaad district of Kerala have found that the wells, ponds, two large reservoirs and paddy fields in the village have dried up and their water resources had been adversely affected;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken by Government to restore the water supply to poor villagers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) Yes. The Government of Kerala has reported that the area of Plachimada is experiencing acute water shortage for agricultural as well as drinking purpose. The ponds in the area and two reservoirs have dried up to some extent. Many of the wells are also dry.

Plachimada is a rain-shadow region. There were only eleven rainy days in June 2002, with a maximum rainfall of only 28 mm. The failure of the South West monsoon is one of the main reasons for the drought situation.

The district administration has made arrangements to supply drinking water in the affected villages. The water from Prambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP) is being used to fill up the Kampalathara Eri, one of the reservoirs in the area. Action is being taken for making more water available from Prambikulam-Aliyar Project to tide over the present drought situation. A multipurpose project named Kuriyarkutty-Karappara Project by the Kerala Government is being implemented. Upon completion of the Project the problem of water scarcity in the area would be resolved.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Mismanagement at IGIA

†595. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to mismanagement prevailing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether a sum of Rs. 700 is charged from the passengers in the name of providing them certain facilities free of cost inside the airport;

(c) if so, whether the passengers are still made to pay additional money at the time of availling of these facilities;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and also the reasons for seepage of rain water from the roof of the Departure Hall of the said airport; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to do away with such mismanagement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) It has always been Airports Authority of India's (AAI) constant endeavour to provide good management at Indira Gandhi International Airport. AAI charges Rs. 200/- as Passengers Service Fee from Domestic and International Departing passengers for meeting the expenditure on both facilitation and security arrangements at the airports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The seepage at times from the roof of departure hall at Terminal-II is due to the age of the building. However, repair works are carried out to rectify the faults.

(e) A number of steps are being taken for bringing in further improvements at IGI Airport, including modification in the locations of the custom counters and other facilities which would increase the arrival handling capacity from 1200 peak hour passengers to 1600 peak hour passegers. Moreover, the Government has decided to upgrade the airport infrastructure, facilities and services to world class standard through private sector participation.

Smart Card Scheme of AAI

†596. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 'Smart Card' scheme announced by the Airports Authority of India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.